

Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 COME-00 XMB-07 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 T-03 RSR-01 /045 W

----- 088765

R 190945 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE AND EXIM BANK

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PIA REEQUIPMENT

REF: BEIRUT 2842

1. PIA DIRECTOR PLANNING AFSAR HUSAIN TOLD CONGEN OFFICER MARCH 16 HE STILL BELIEVES PIA BOARD WILL MAKE DECISION BY MARCH 31 CONCERNING ACQUISITION WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT. HE REAFFIRMED PIA'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE NEW AIRCRAFT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE "OTHER SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT" IN GOP FAVORED POSTPONEMENT FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE. THINKING OF THESE SCHOOLS IS LOOSE HOWEVER AND ECONOMIC RATIONALE FOR SUCH POSTPONEMENT NOT QUANTIFIED. HUSAIN BELIEVES PIA ECONOMIC STUDIES CONCERNING AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION SHOW SUCH INVESTMENT TO BE MORE FAVORABLE FOR COUNTRY THAN INVESTMENT IN OTHER AREAS.

2. EDITORIAL CONTAINED MARCH 7 EDITION LOCAL "AVIATION TIMES" FURTHER INDICATES EXISTENCE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT FAVORING POSTPONEMENT AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION. EDITORIAL REFERS TO MISTAKES WHICH PIA MADE PREVIOUSLY IN PURCHASE

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VARIOUS PLANES AND STATES THAT ALTHOUGH " EVALUATION OF BOTH PLANES (DC-10 AND 747) HAS BEEN COMPLETED... NOW SOME MORE ASPECTS DETAILS OF WHICH ARE NOT KNOWN ARE BEING STUDIED". EDITORIAL FURTHER NOTES UNFORTUNATE " MUD- SLINGING, PRESSURE TACTICS AND INTIMIDATION" EMPLOYED BY " CERTAIN INTERESTED QUARTERS" DURING THE DELAY IN SELECTION WIDE- BODIED AIRCRAFT.

3. COMMENT: NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN LOCAL PRESS NO

DOUBT INSPIRED BY AIRCRAFT REPRESENTATIVES, HAVE BEEN CASTING INNUENDO AGAINST RIVAL FIRMS. PRESSURES ON PIA PERSONNEL INCLUDING ASPERSIONS CONCERNING BRIBE OFFERS, ETC. HAVE ALSO BEEN HEAVY, ACCORDING OUR SOURCES WITHIN PIA.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING 3/19/74.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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